

COVID-19: Arrangements for Summative Assessment at UEA Partner Institutions for Academic Year 20/21

-January 2021 Update

In response to the further COVID-19 related measures announced by the UK government last week UEA has provided further updates to students on measures it will be taking to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on their studies. This paper provides an update on how UEA will be applying these measures to its provision with partner institutions.

Safety Net to Support Degree Classification for All Undergraduate Students where 2020/2021 is a Counting Year

For all provision with partner institutions we will apply the following measures:

For this year's Bachelors finalists:

Last academic year, we offered the assurance to students that, as it was a counting year of study, we would 'safety net' performance in students' second year and their classification on graduation. We said that where a student performed to a higher standard in their final year (2020/2021) and achieved a higher average year mark then this would be used in place of the previous year average (2019/2020) in calculating their degree classification.

In addition to this and in recognition of the ongoing impact COVID-19 may have had on this year's academic performance we will extend the use of the safety net to cover the year average mark achieved in this final academic year 2020/2021.

So long as students qualify to graduate (have passed all core modules, achieved the necessary credit at the required academic levels and a passing mark for this year) **then the higher of the year average achieved in either the second or final year will be used to calculate their degree classification.**

For Continuing Students in a Counting Year (Bachelors Level 5)

So long as students qualify to progress to their final / following year, have passed all core modules and achieved a passing mark for the year, then **we will ensure that their academic year average for 2020/2021 is supported by a 'safety net' when considering their degree classification.**

We will ensure that if their year average in their final academic year (Bachelors) is higher than the average they attain in this year of study, then we will use that higher mark for classification purposes.

Extenuating Circumstances

As stated in our previous update on COVID measures last month, UEA has reviewed its Extenuating Circumstances policy to retain the flexibility of panel discretion, and only to expect independent medical evidence where it is reasonable to do so. UEA has made provision for self-testimony,

advisers, student services or those close to students to provide testimony of support for consideration. It has also explicitly acknowledged the nature of mental health challenges and how this may impact on help-seeking behaviour.

UEA has now stated that for any summative assessment event with a deadline of or due to take place by 1st March 2021, any student who wishes to seek an extension or to request a delayed examination sit can do so, without the necessity for provision of any evidence if this is not available.

If students need to request a delayed sit of an examination scheduled in the period up until 01 March 2021, then they do not need to provide evidence in support of this and it will take place at the earliest available opportunity, typically in the main summer examination period.

For standard assessment items students can request a delayed submission date of 5 working days beyond the published deadline without the need to provide any evidence.

For Yr.3 (i.e. Stage 3) placement reports, professional portfolios, projects and/ or dissertations, 10 working days will be given without evidence.

If a longer extension is needed, students can request this but should be aware that they may be asked to provide evidence where it is reasonable to expect that this can be provided.

The provision of evidence for submissions beyond 01 March arising from atypical programmes, year-long modules and/or Semester 2 items will also be sympathetically considered in keeping with the established principles. Students will only be asked for evidence where it is reasonable to do so.

As UEA partners operate under a range of extenuating circumstances policies we are not mandating that these changes to the UEA policy be implemented at partners. However, we would encourage all partners to consider applying these adjustments and maintain an increased level of flexibility when considering extenuating circumstances this academic year, in line with the points implemented above.

Exam Boards and Academic Discretion

As stated in last month's update, academic discretion will be retained for academic year 2020/21. This means that Boards of Examiners, including those at partner institutions, are able to review the individual profile of students when considering their degree classification and take a holistic view of performance. Where there is an indication of impact on a given result/ period of results and/or a student has indicated adverse circumstances then they will be able to take this into account.

UEA Partnerships Office

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